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*EIGHTH CANADIAN CONFERENCE*

*OF*

*CHARITIES AND CORRECTION*



*HELD AT TORONTO*

*NOVEMBER 15TH TO 17TH. 1905*



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*PROCEEDINGS*

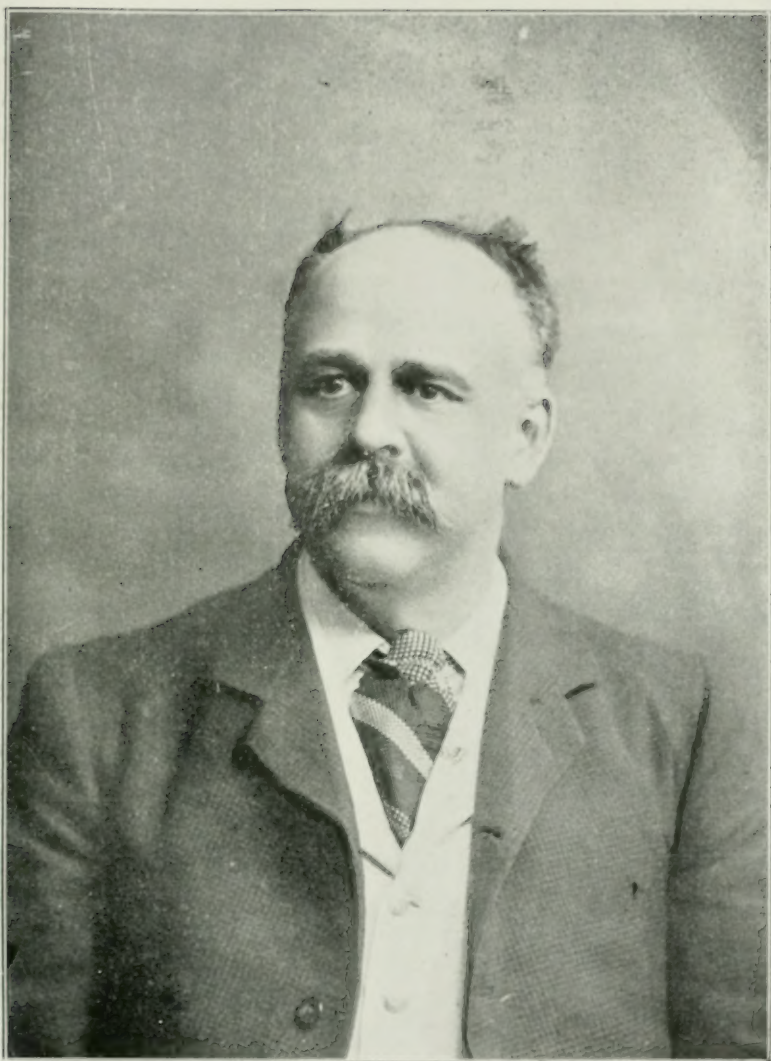


*EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF  
CHARITIES AND CORRECTION*

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DR. BRUCE SMITH,  
*Inspector of Hospitals and Charities,*  
PRESIDENT CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION.





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# PROCEEDINGS

OF

## EIGHTH CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTION

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DR. BRAY, Chatham.

JOHN KEANE, Ottawa.

DR. W. L. HERRIMAN, Lindsay.

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### OBJECT:

*To afford an opportunity for the free discussion of all questions  
relating to public benevolence, and the care and  
management of public institutions.*





## EIGHTH REPORT

### Canadian Conference of Charities and Correction

HELD IN THE

NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDING, TORONTO,

November 15th, 1905,

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THE President, Mr. J. E. Farewell, K.C., of Whitby, called the meeting to order at 2.30 Wednesday, Nov. 15th, and after reading a cablegram from F. R. Seager, of Hobart, Tasmania, extending greetings to the Canadian Conference, read the following address:—

In opening this Eighth Annual Conference of Charities and Corrections, permit me to thank the Association for the great honor of being elected as its President.

This is an age of Associations, Societies, Fraternal Orders, Unions and Conventions by which good citizens endeavor to bring before the people questions of great public importance in the carrying on of benevolent and philanthropic objects, by which religious people multiply and cheapen copies of the Holy Scriptures and religious literature, and in connection with Missionary Societies carry the Gospel to new and sparse settlements in their own country and to the very isles of the sea; by which laboring men strive to increase their wages and lessen the hours of labor, and secure the enforcement of regulations which tend to secure them from accident and disease while engaged in their work.

This is an age of great Syndicates and gigantic Trusts, by which some bad people, it is said, contrive to appropriate to their own use more than their proper share of the wealth of the country in which they operate. One thing has been made manifest, namely, that these objects and aims, good or bad, can be best promoted and extended by the victorious power of combination.

The existence of poverty and crime makes great demand on the time and means of those who feel constrained to alleviate the pain and suffering of the unfortunate, even by often sharing largely of their means which have been acquired by industry and thrift for those of their own household.

The existence of crime in a community often makes the life of a law-abiding man, who is in comfortable circumstances, very uncomfortable. Where crime prevails there is anxiety, there is danger to one's person and property. There is a large expenditure of money to prevent crime, to detect it and to punish the criminals. In view of this, are we not warranted in asserting, that amongst the most useful of these societies and associations formed for good purposes, are those which, like our own, have been formed "to afford an opportunity for the free and intelligent discussion of all questions relating to the distribution of public and private benevolence, the best means for prevention of crime, the punishment of crime, and, as far as possible, the reformation or improvement of the criminal."

Every honest, thrifty taxpayer is interested in seeing that public and private charity is so extended that the deserving and helpless only are relieved and are helped, as far as possible, in such a way that they will be able thereafter to help themselves.

He is also interested in seeing that the idle, the imposter and the criminal does not share in the benevolence which ought to go to the deserving. Many suggestions which have been made by this and other kindred societies as to this matter and how to prevent and punish crime have been practical and of money value to the ratepayer. There have been enquiries and discussions upon a number of questions of this nature, and there are many others well worthy of like investigation and discussion, not only out of Parliament but in Parliament.

In pursuing our work we have been and will be called "Faddists and Cranks," that should not disturb in the least our digestion or our enquiries as to the cause and remedy for evils which seriously affect the public good. "A crank" is a mechanical contrivance for turning something, God knows there are plenty of customs and evils which need turning inside out, and which ought to be turned upside down, and turned out of sight.

Some of you may remember how Dr. Charles Mackay in his "Voices from the Crowd" deals with these people who oppose needed changes,—

" There are three preachers ever preaching  
One is old with locks of white  
Skinny as an anchorite.  
And he preaches every hour  
With a bigot's fury and scorn,  
Backward, ye presumptuous people ;  
Man to misery is born ;  
Born to drudge, and sweat and suffer  
Born to labor and to pray ;  
Backward, ye presumptuous people,  
Back ; be humble and obey.

" The second is a milder preacher ;  
Soft he talks as if he sung,  
With an air of self content  
High he lifts his fair white hands :  
Stand ye still ye restless people,  
And be happy, all ye lands,  
Fate is law, and law is perfect,  
If ye meddle, ye will mar ;  
Change is rash, and ever was so,  
We are happy as we are.

" Mightier is the younger preacher,  
Genius flashes from his eye :  
And the crowds who hear his voice,  
Give him while their souls rejoice,  
Throbbing bosoms for replies.  
Awed they listen, yet elated,  
While his stirring accents fall  
Forward ye deluded people,  
Progress is the rule of all,  
Man was made for healthful effort ;  
Tyranny has crushed him long ;  
He shall march from good to better,  
And do battle with the wrong,  
STANDING STILL is childish folly,  
GOING BACKWARD is a crime,  
None should patiently endure,  
Any ill that he can cure."

The treatment of inebriates must be the subject of more vigorous and rational legislation, so that they may be made to do



their duty as to supporting their families, and to cease being a nuisance and menace to society, and they and their families a charge upon the public. The taxpayer cannot afford to have these men drift into a criminal course of life, without at least trying the effect of the Probation System, which will be brought before you for consideration. Neither can the public afford to have the person who is for the first time convicted of a criminal offence locked up and guarded, clothed and fed at the public expense in the gaol, where he runs great danger of becoming an habitual criminal from association with old offenders; neither can the taxpayer afford to support his family outside of the gaol while he is idle inside.

The Probation System, by means of which his earnings are applied in support of his family without locking him up, is worth a trial. Since our last meeting, action has been taken by the Prisoners' Aid and other Associations, including our own, to urge the Hon. Mr. Hanna, Provincial Secretary, who fortunately is a man of a large heart and kindly hand, as well as an able and courageous administrator of Prisons and Charities, to personally investigate this system, and if found satisfactory, to apply it to the treatment of inebriates and to urge its application by the Dominion Government to criminals on first conviction and to wife deserters.

#### CHILD LABOR.

The lamentable but increasing practice of employing young children in factories and other employments dangerous to their health, causing arrested development, ill health and mental weakness, is a matter which requires great vigilance and prompt action on the part of Factory Inspectors, who should have their powers extended to other employments. While in Detroit this summer, the matter was receiving considerable attention and enquiry. It was found that over 10,000 children under the age limit (14 years) fixed by the Michigan Factory Act were employed in work dangerous to the health.

It was found that while many noble widows were enduring privations, and working beyond their strength to give their children a chance to go to school, and to be engaged in the very necessary operation of growing and development, a large number of men, if that term is justifiable, perhaps one might better say, fathers of families, were living in idleness and debauchery on the fruits of their young child's labor.

One able-bodied lout of this class applied to the inspector for a permit to have one of his children under the factory age so employed, and upon being refused, complained in most unparliamentary language "That it don't pay to raise children any more."

## PROTECTION OF WORKMEN AND OTHERS FROM ACCIDENTS.

One of the best means of preventing suffering, rendering unnecessary the giving of charity and saving the expense of coroners' inquests and criminal prosecutions, is the enactment and *strict enforcement* of proper regulations as to preventing accidents in mines and from unguarded machinery, and the insufficient construction and negligent management of roads and vessels for transporting travellers.

The *desertion of families* by drunken and worthless men, and the consequent exposing of the wife and children to suffering as well as the danger of these children becoming recruits for the criminal army should be made the subject of legislation. Some of the energy of policemen and constables could be devoted to the apprehension of these amongst the chiefest of offenders against Society, who should be placed on the Probation System.

The infliction of flogging or long periods of imprisonment in the Central Prison should be the punishment of such a man who does not submit and comply with the requirements of the Probation System.

The above are some of the questions which this and kindred Societies should give attention to when the other matters which have been under consideration by it have been disposed of.

It is pleasant and refreshing to find that in the beginning of this country men blessed with wealth are remembering and assisting charities for sick and incurable children, and aiding societies for the protection and reformation of children, and that the gifts for hospitals and other charities were never so great.

Our Association could do much good by presenting with tact in the most energetic and earnest manner the great good which men of means can accomplish in this way *by interesting themselves in their lifetime* in this work,—by urging them to be *their own executors* in furthering these desirable objects by giving not only their money, *but something of that energy and skill* which they have so successfully employed in their own affairs.

What a change could be wrought for the benefit of the suffering and sorrowing if all who are able to give would give in their lifetime, and interest themselves in the work to which they give. They would then realize the difference between giving of worthless gold alone and giving with it themselves. Florence Nightingale, her givings and her labors represents "sweet charity." The million are and his legacy "some charity."



Lowell, in "The Vision of Sir Launfal," makes the Saviour who appeared in the guise of a leper, say to Sir Launfal on his return from searching for the Holy Grail or cup which the Saviour was supposed to have used at the last supper :

"The Holy Supper is kept, indeed,  
In whatso we share with another's need ;  
Not what we give, but what we share,  
For the gift without the giver is bare.  
Who gives himself with his alms feeds three  
Himself, his hungering neighbor and me."

MAYOR UROUHART then welcomed the delegates to Toronto, congratulating Canadians for their interest in charitable organizations and philanthropic work.

Letters of regret were then read from Professor Goldwin Smith, and from Hon. W. J. Hanna, Provincial Secretary.

MR. J. J. KELSO responding on behalf of the Conference to the address of welcome, pointed out that the object of the Conference was two-fold. First of all to get the philanthropic workers in different parts of the country better acquainted ; and secondly, to bring about a higher state of efficiency by considering and adopting the best methods of carrying on charitable and prison reform work. He pointed out that the money spent in charitable reform and in the maintenance of institutions for the dependent and delinquent classes was over one million dollars annually, and that the highest ability and enthusiasm was necessary in order to carry on these great enterprises in a satisfactory manner. There seemed to be a popular impression that charitable enterprises of all kinds might be left to elderly ladies and retired clergymen ; but without desiring to make any undue reflection, he considered that business ability was as much needed in these enterprises as in any line of commercial work, and charitable workers should be better paid, because there was not only a heavy call made upon the brain, but also upon the heart. It was one of the aims of the Conference to elevate philanthropic work to the status of a profession, and to encourage University graduates to become specialists in social and moral reform work.

The President expressed regret at the absence of Mr. Adam Brown, a former President of the Association, and one of its heartiest supporters.

MR. W. H. WARDROPE, K.C., of Hamilton, agreed that men should be professionally fitted for positions as Superintendents or Secretaries of Charitable Organizations. If better methods were adopted much pauperism would be saved, for there was much relief giving that might be cut off by providing employment, and

otherwise encouraging dependents to provide for themselves. Hamilton, he said, had done a great deal for charity, and had recently raised \$30,000 for the purpose of building a sanatorium for consumptives. He believed that neglected children should be carefully looked after, and if necessary, transplanted to proper homes, and that when a man was sent to prison he should be made to work and his earnings given towards the support of those dependent upon him.

MR. JAMES MITCHELL, of Goderich, spoke of the excellent work being done by the Children's Aid Society in his district, and said it would be far better to spend \$50 in saving a child than to spend hundreds of dollars seeking to bring about his reformation after he became a criminal.

MR. SHERIFF CAMERON, of London; DR. BRUCE SMITH, of Toronto; MR. ALEXANDER SHAW, of Walkerton, and REV. FATHER MINEHAN, also spoke briefly.

Committees were then appointed as follows:

On resolutions—Mr. Sheriff Cameron, London; Dr. Bruce Smith, Toronto; Mr. Finlay Spencer, Toronto; Arch. MacMurchy, Toronto; James Mitchell, Goderich and S. M. Thomson, Brantford.

On nominations and time and place of next meeting—The President, J. E. Farewell, K.C.; J. J. Kelso, Dr. Rosebrugh, J. H. McMenemy, Lee Williams and Rev. James Lediard.

## EVENING SESSION.

At the evening session the first speaker was Mr. Hamilton Cassels, K.C., who gave an address urging a better classification of prisoners with a view to their reformation. In the discussion that followed, Mr. F. Spencer and Mrs. O'Sullivan, J. J. Kelso and C. Ferrier took part.

PROFESSOR G. M. WRONG, M.A., then gave an address on the Reformation of Inebriates, of which the following is a synopsis.

### WHAT THE ONTARIO SOCIETY FOR THE REFORMATION OF INEBRIATES STANDS FOR.

1. It stands for the *reformation* not for the *punishment* of inebriates, and the principle upon which it basis its hope of reformation is that, linked with the appeal to the drunkard's conscience, there should be the effort to remove physical causes which promote drunkenness. The best medical opinion of the day pronounces inebriety a disease. We can treat it effectively only when we recognize its real nature.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

About 60 years since, the question of the supervision and education of children not normal mentally first began to receive attention in Great Britain, and it has gradually been impressed upon the public mind :

1st. That the number of mental defectives tends to increase, and there is not adequate provision to care for them.

2nd. That existing institutions fail to reach milder cases of mental defect, i.e., the higher grades of the feeble-minded, though these higher grades, on account of their numerous progeny, and for other reasons, are more of a menace and a burden to the community than other feeble-minded persons.

3rd. That home care is unsuitable for, at any rate, the majority of these cases, and special boarding schools, as well as permanent detention in custodial homes with industrial colonies attached are urgently required in the interests of the individual, the family, and the nation.

4th. That it is possible to ascertain the cause of many, if not all cases of mental defect, and that if this knowledge were applied, the number of mental defectives would largely decrease, instead of increasing.

There can be no doubt that feeble-mindedness goes hand in hand with moral weakness and physical weakness or at least a poor standard of physical health. Among other causes of feeble-mindedness are :

1st. Deficient nutrition in the early years of life. The brain is starved.

2nd. The employment of married women at the child-bearing period in factories, &c.

3rd. A hereditary tendency to tuberculosis.

4th. Chronic alcoholism in one or both parents.

5th. Descent from a feeble-minded, criminal or insane ancestry.

These are not theories nor conjectures. They are facts ascertained by the patient investigation and long experience of government officials, physicians and others who have studied the problem of the feeble-minded, and been impressed with "the total inadequacy of the provision made for dealing with the enormous class of mental incapables who, not being certified lunatics are unfit either to earn a livelihood or look after themselves or their affairs."—*The Lancet*.

Of the children admitted into the special schools (schools for the Feeble-minded) in Nottingham, Dr. Evan Powell, Super-



intendent of the Asylum in that city, states that 20 per cent were there as the result of hereditary predisposition to insanity in the parents; alcoholism accounted for 28 per cent; 32 per cent were due to consumption in the family. Other direct causes were epilepsy 10 per cent, injury to the head 6 per cent, and physical weakness 11 per cent.

The education of the British nation in these matters has been mainly accomplished by such societies as the National Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Feeble minded, and the National Union of Special Schools. The objects of the former Society are to provide feeble minded persons with the means of earning a livelihood, to house the mentally weak in permanent homes, to ascertain how far imbecility is due to preventable causes, and so limit its extension. The National Union of Special Schools, founded in 1903, is mainly concerned with the education of children defective mentally.

Another Society is the Lancashire and Cheshire Society for the permanent cure of the feeble-minded, founded in 1899 by Miss Dendy, of Manchester, who was the first person in Great Britain to urge the *permanent* care of the feeble-minded.

Then there are the After-Care Committees of the School Boards in Birmingham, Manchester, the immediate objects of which are to find work for those feeble-minded children who leave the Special Schools capable of work, and also to see if anything can be done for the hopeless cases incapable of work. But the real object is to investigate this important question and see what really becomes of these children. This is the most important piece of work yet done, because it lights up the darkest part of the path.

Thus "in Birmingham, of 48 children in special classes for the feeble-minded 13 were lost sight of because they moved out of the School Board's jurisdiction. Every such lost-sight-of child may mean, and generally does mean, a future generation of feeble-minded children. 10 were at work. Average wage 5s. 9d. per week. Even of these, by far the greater number are on their way to the prison, workhouse, or penitentiary. They are not capable of self-support at all, and when their near relatives die and leave them homeless they get into trouble. 7 were out of work, 1 died, 6 were incapable of work, 5 were in such a condition that they should go to an asylum or home at once." — Mrs. Hume Pinsent, Chairman of the After Care Committee of the Birmingham School Board.

In Birmingham, as a result of the investigations of the After-Care Committees two boarding schools for feeble-minded children are to be built.

The attention of the British Government was directed to these matters, and an act was passed in 1899 enabling School Boards to establish special schools or special classes for the feeble-minded, and finally, on the recommendation of the Home Secretary, a Royal Commission was appointed by His Majesty, the King, in August, 1904, to consider the existing methods of dealing with idiots and epileptics, and with imbecile, feeble-minded, or defective persons, not certified under the lunacy laws, and in view of the hardship and danger resulting to such persons and the community from insufficient provision for their care, training and control, to report as to the amendments in the law and other measures which should be adopted in the matter, due regard being had to the expense involved in any such proposals, and to the best means of securing economy therein.

The members of the Royal Commission as at first constituted were :—The Marquis of Bath, Chairman ; Mr. W. P. Byrne, C.B. of the Home Office ; Mr. Chas. Hobhouse, M.P.; Dr. Frederick Needham, Commissioner in Lunacy and Ex-President of Medico-Psychological Association ; Mr. Henry D. Greene, K.C., M.P. ; Mr. Chas. Chadwyck-Healey, K.C.; Rev. Harold Nelson Burden Mr. W. H. Dickinson, Chairman of the National Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Feeble-minded, Dr. Charles S. Loch, Secretary of the Charity Organization Society ; Mrs. Hume Pinsent of Birmingham, Chairman of the After-care Committee of the Birmingham School Board. There were afterwards added Dr. H. B. Donkin, one of H. M. Commissioners for Prisons and Dr. J. C. Dunlop, Inspector under the Inebriates' Act in Scotland and Medical Adviser to the Prison Commissioners, Scotland. The Marquis of Bath having resigned, the King appointed the Earl of Radnor to his vacant place.

The evidence taken before this Royal Commission has been wonderful in its scope and variety, and of appalling significance. At one sitting of the Commission the following facts were brought out :

That the London County Council now has 76 schools for mentally defective children, accommodating 3,219 pupils, average attendance 2,480. [Think of the number not at school which these figures indicate.]

That the cost of an ordinary child is £3 2s. in the London Schools. Cost of a feeble-minded (special school) child is £9 16s. 8d.

That children are sometimes supposed to be feeble-minded, who are not. Dr. James Kerr, Medical Officer to the London School Board, gave evidence that he found a child, supposed to be feeble-minded, to be only "word-deaf," (unable to understand spoken words) and really abnormally gifted in other respects.



This Commission, in September, 1905, appointed five of its number, viz: Mr. W. P. Byrne, Mr. Dickinson, Dr. Dunlop, Dr. Donkin and Mrs. Pinsent to visit America and inspect its institutions for the feeble-minded and report on them. They are now engaged in visiting the Custodial Homes and other excellent institutions at Newark, New York State, Waverley, Mass., Chicago, Ill. and elsewhere, where the feeble-minded are permanently detained and cared for.

#### CENSUS OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

As to the number of the feeble minded in any community, it is difficult to obtain accurate statistics. It is often stated to be about 1 per cent in Great Britain, though Dr. Thomas Savage of Birmingham, states that it is 1 in 400. In Switzerland a census of the school children, 6 to 14 years of age, was taken in 1900 and the number of feeble-minded was found to be 1.58 per cent.

In July, 1905, under the instructions of the Hon. W. J. Hanna Provincial Secretary for Ontario, the following definite information was obtained :

#### ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS AT ORILLIA.

1890—Number of Inmates.....	337
1900—Number of Inmates.....	728
1904—Number of Inmates.....	772

In addition to the above, there have been 574 applications refused on account of the lack of room.

From Dr. R. W. Bruce Smith, Inspector of Hospitals and Charities of Ontario :

#### MATERNITY HOSPITALS, HOMES FOR THE FRIENDLESS, REFUGES, &c.

Statistics have been gathered as follows from four representative institutions mentioned below. From January 1st to June 30th, 1905, there were 241 inmates living in these four institutions of whom 79 were recognized as distinctly feeble-minded by the matron in charge. These were distributed as follows :

	TOTAL NUMBER OF INMATES.	NUMBER OF FEEBLE- MINDED INMATES.
Burnside Maternity Hospital, (Toronto General Hospital).....	41	9
Refuge and Infants' Home, Kingston..	13	4
Haven and Prison Gate Mission, Toronto	150	50
Home for the Friendless, Ottawa.....	31	16
	<hr/> 241	<hr/> 79

Further, in many cases, the child born during the above period of six months was not the first child. In one case, of which a special report was made by Miss Sanderson, the Superintendent of the Haven, one of their feeble-minded inmates was the mother of *nine illegitimate, feeble-minded children*. It will thus be seen that about 33 per cent. of the inmates of such institutions are feeble-minded, and their children are feeble-minded. In England of 100 consecutive inmates examined in such an institution 37 per cent were feeble-minded. (Dr. Potts quoted by Mrs. Pinsent) As there are in Ontario some ten institutions of the above class, and according to the Government Report of the year 1904 the total number of inmates is not less than 1000, and about one-third of these are feeble-minded, it will be seen that a large number of feeble-minded children are being added each year to the burdens of the Province.

According to the figures obtained by the National Council of Women, who have done a great deal to direct public attention to this matter, there are are not less than 900 feeble-minded women in Ontario.

#### THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ONTARIO.

The following information was obtained in answer to letters written to Public School Inspectors in different parts of Ontario, containing the following questions :

"Are there any children in your Inspectorate who are not normal mentally?" "Do you think the number is increasing?"

The following are among a large number of replies received :

1. "6 children out of an enrolment of 1700 are noticeably deficient mentally."
2. "3 in the town of S." (are deficient mentally.)
3. "Not more than 10 in the town of G."
4. "I have noticed 3 cases of abnormally weak-minded children during my last half year's visits, but there may be many others who do not come to school."
5. "I come across not a few children lacking mentally as I go my rounds through — County, one—sometimes two in a school,—but not in all schools. Without keeping a record, I should say about one in ten schools. That would be about four per thousand. If I guess at that then there will be 40 or 50 in — County. I am inclined to think that the number of such is increasing but I have no exact data. I greatly wish something could be done to provide suitable training for such unfortunates. They get little good in school—sit moping and brooding over what little they know, but learn very little."

There is no doubt, then, that the number of the feeble-minded in Ontario is large enough. How are we to care for them?

#### PREVENTION.

To prevent alcoholism, tuberculosis, under-feeding, physical degeneracy, is to prevent feeble-mindedness too. But the most pressing part of the problem is now to prevent feeble-minded persons from becoming parents.

First of all, then, we need a census taken, of the feeble-minded. A report might easily be got from every Hospital, Refuge, Haven, House of Providence, House of Industry, Home for the Friendless or other Government or charitable institution, of the name, age and condition of all feeble-minded inmates.

A report might also be had of all school children who are mentally defective. Through the Children's Aid Societies the names of a further number might be secured. The Children's Aid Societies are really forbidden to take children mentally defective, but, as the officers say, "What are we to do? These children cannot be left to perish, and there is nowhere to send them."

The census should furnish certain facts in regard to these feeble-minded persons such as whether they are willing to be placed in a Custodial Home. There are known to be a large number who would be so willing. It would be further necessary to obtain some legislative enactment that all feeble-minded persons incapable of self support, all found at large without proper control or means of subsistence, and found guilty of an offence against the law should be committed to permanent care in an industrial colony or Custodial Home. In addition, all feeble-minded women found in Refuges, Maternity Hospitals, &c. should certainly be committed to a Custodial Home on a medical certificate of their feeble-minded condition. It should also be considered, when this census is completed, whether there are enough feeble-minded children in Ontario to require a special school or parental home for their instruction. From such a special school the inmates could pass on to the Custodial Homes or industrial colonies. The most pressing need in Ontario at present is a Custodial Home for feeble-minded women.

Those who have expert knowledge and have made these matters their chief study advise this. "There is one thing, however, to which I wish to direct attention particularly in this report, and that is that an institution should be erected for the care and custody of feeble-minded women of such grade as I have frequently referred to in reports and writings and which has engaged the attention of the National Council of Women." A.



H. Beaton in the Annual Report of the Medical Supt. of the, Asylum for Idiots, Orillia, for the year ending Sept. 30, 1904 p. 194 in the 37th Annual Report of Lunatic and Idiot Asylums, Ontario.

The establishment of such an institution is

1. *Necessary* on account of the number of uncared-for feeble-minded in the Province.

2. *Economical*.—"Each \$100.00 invested in this work saves \$1,000.00 in the next generation." Dr. Fernald, Supt. of the colony for the feeble-minded in Massachusetts.

(a) By means of such an institution, feeble minded persons could be taught and trained along lines that would make them useful in the Institution which is to be their permanent Custodial Home, so that they may be at least partly self-supporting, and help the Province to some extent to bear the burden of caring for them. Hardly any are absolutely unteachable. The lowest grades learn to clean and polish things. Higher grades are self-supporting in a Home, but unable to take care of themselves at all out in the world.

(b) It must also be remembered that the people of the Province lose a good deal of money and property every year as a result of crimes committed by feeble-minded persons. This loss would be prevented if such persons were taken care of in an Industrial Colony or Custodial Home.

(c) A single family of persons of this class has cost the State of New York more than has been spent for the building and maintenance of the Custodial Asylum since it was first established." p. 83, 37th Report of the State Board of Charities of New York.

3.—*Benevolent and Humane*. It is the duty of a civilized State to protect the weak. These feeble-minded persons must be regarded as the wards of the Province, and in such an institution their lives would be happy and comfortable, as well as safe.

4.—*Just*. A feeble-minded child has rights. Few, indeed, are absolutely unteachable. They can be improved. "The healing power of work is great."

5.—*Wise*. It is the part of wisdom to prevent the increase of feeble-mindedness in the next generation.

This subject is now under consideration by the Government of Ontario, and public opinion will justify the Government in taking early action in this important matter.

MR. D. M. CAMERON, President of the Children's Aid Society, London, said that he could heartily endorse the paper he had just listened to, as he believed it was one of the problems that would have to be taken up in the future, and he mentioned that the following resolution had recently been adopted in London.

"This Conference desires to endorse the magnificent work of the Children's Aid Societies of this Province and desire to suggest that the work is of such importance and has now developed to an extent that will justify the Government in placing such societies on the list of charitable organizations receiving aid from the Province, with such restrictions and stipulations as they think wise to impose." Carried.

He had often heard the regret expressed that the population of this country was not growing as fast as the country to the south of us, but it was his conviction that one good, reliable, healthy person was worth more than 50 degenerates, and that the quality of the people coming to this country should be a higher consideration than mere numbers. He did not know that we had yet reached that financial position in this Province which would permit of the establishment of the special schools advocated, but some beginning might be made in that direction.

MRS. WILLOUGHBY CUMMINGS, Secretary of the National Council of Women, explained that for a number of years past a special committee of the Council has been studying this question, and found that there was at large a surprisingly large number of feeble-minded women who should be in custodial institutions. The matter has been drawn to the attention of the Government and promises given that it would receive careful attention.

DR. BRUCE SMITH, Inspector of Hospitals and Charities, then read the following paper:

#### TO PREVENT THE INCREASE OF INSANITY

Of all the diseases with which humanity is affected insanity pre-eminently demands the utilization of every possible preventive measure. We study the preventability of epidemics, every new bacterium that investigations disclose is pursued with commendable zeal. In the realm of mind, however, where preservation means so much more than cure, where the damage is so often irreparable, we utter few words of warning and make few comments regarding the possibility of preventing mental disease.

In this age of scientific research the study of mind disorder has led to the closest investigations to show the relations that exist between tissue degeneration and mental phenomena. Too much



encouragement cannot be given to the workers in that interesting and instructive field of scientific research. The attention, however, must not be limited to the study of the changes which accompany the developed disease. We must pursue our investigations further. For back of the development of the diseased condition lie social and racial conditions, and in the careful and comprehensive analysis of these we must look for a partial solution of the great problem, the safe-guarding of the human understanding from destructive disease or premature decay. Without doubt in fifty per cent of all cases of developed insanity we find such evidence of ancestral defect or disease as would lead us to expect at some point in the line of descent a re-appearance of this defect in the form of active disease of the mind. There is probably no other disease in which the probability of development may be so often and so certainly foretold by a study of the ancestry. That insanity appears in succeeding generations in the same line is well known to everyone. The more fully we can persuade the public to the fullest comprehension of the dangers which attend the introduction of such defective strains the better will we be able to protect future generations. Parents and children are not half alive to the importance of guarding against such entanglements. They should be taught to look upon alliances with such ancestral lines not simply as discreditable or unworthy, but as fraught with danger. The awful responsibility of imposing such tainted heredity upon offspring should be clearly understood and carefully avoided. In a portion of one county in Ontario, through indiscriminate marriage and intermarriage, insanity has become most frequent, and I have known several members of one family, with numerous other relations from the same section of country, to be inmates at the same time of the same institution.

Dr. Blanchard, in an address before the British Medical Association, said :

"I have been long of the opinion that insanity is to be prevented chiefly by limiting the propagation of this most fearful disease through the union of affected persons. I am convinced that the only way to really diminish and finally stamp out insanity is by so educating public opinion, that those who have been insane or are threatened with insanity, shall, in the face of such public opinion, abstain from bringing into the world children who must certainly contain in them the potentiality of insanity, who will, some of them, develop it, even if others escape, and so will hand on the heritage from generation to generation till the race dies out."

It is a difficult question to decide whether or not there should be restrictions by legal enactment to forbid the marriage of any

person whose ancestral line was tainted by insanity. In one of the American State Legislatures, recently, a bill was introduced but afterwards withdrawn, in which it was enacted that before marriage was allowed in any case certificates made by two medical practitioners must be filed, certifying that the family history was clear on each side of traces of insanity. I mention this as an instance showing that the influence of heredity as one of the great predisposing causes of insanity is becoming more thoroughly understood. Public opinion, however, must be further enlightened before restrictions will have the support and obedience required. The day may yet dawn, when, as a nation, we will give the same attention to the breeding of children that we do now to the breeding of horses. If this great land, whose resources and vastness are now only commencing to be understood, is in ages yet unborn to be peopled by a hardy and vigorous race, there must be a wide dissemination among all classes of knowledge expressed so plainly that he who runs may read and understand how great and lasting are the influences of heredity. Thousands of dollars are spent yearly in Canada in spreading a knowledge broadcast regarding the evils of intemperance. The pulpit and the press vie with each other in the exercise of their potent influence for the suppression of many known vices. How seldom are these forces expended in warning the people regarding the fearful ravages wrought upon mankind by indiscriminate matrimonial alliances; how great the responsibility of the medical profession in this direction; the people look to the family physician, and quite properly trust to his judgment and advice in all matters relating to health. True, he may not often be consulted with regard to such matters, but how often is he made the silent witness of alliances which he knows are to say the least, unsafe. If the full significance of the grave responsibilities involved by a marriage in which in the ancestry of either of the contracting parties there was insanity, were properly explained, both parents and children could soon be taught the gravely prejudicial nature of such a procedure. We can do a great deal to create a proper public sentiment in regard to this matter. No coercive measure enacted by any legislature would be respected or obeyed. The public must first be intelligently instructed as to the dangers involved, and when thus taught they will surely comprehend the importance of the subject.

The influence of heredity is very manifest in Ontario to anyone acquainted with the varied phases of human development met with among the thousands that now crowd our Asylums, our Refuges, and our Orphanages. Notwithstanding the fact that the influence of hereditary antecedents is acknowledged everywhere, how seldom are efforts made to counteract the baneful influences

that are year by year adding to the population of our country, persons whose lack of moral and mental development render them of necessity subjects for charitable custody. [We observe with pleasure the care and thought given in Canada to the selective breeding of horses, cows and dogs and yet seldom express astonishment that little thought is given to the breeding of the human species.] The Farm Journals are constantly pointing out that good and bad qualities in animals pass by hereditary transmission, but who ever reads in the public press that the same laws apply to the human family? The time has surely come when by recognition of the important influence of heredity we may seek for measures to correct some growing evils in our midst which cannot longer be allowed to go unrecognized and unchecked.

In every Refuge, Rescue Home and Orphanage may be found deplorable evidence of the necessity of some action being taken that will check the ever-increasing number of mental degenerates that are being brought into the world. There are hundreds of feeble-minded girls in this Province that should be cared for in some institution specially set apart and conducted as an Industrial Refuge. Only last week in one of the smaller cities of Ontario I counted a dozen young women who could be classed only as high grade imbeciles, and who had either just become or were about to be mothers. The probable destiny of their offspring need be little questioned. Then when I looked about and saw the marks of degeneracy so evident in many of the other children I could only wonder how long it will take to awaken public conscience to a proper comprehension of the importance of this great question. Every few years this great Province adds, with commendable liberality, to the institutions established for the care and custody of its unfortunates. The time has surely come when as much attention should be given to prevention of insanity as to the care and custody of its unfortunate victims.

There is another point that must not be lost sight of and that is that we are altogether too lax in regard to allowing undesirable emigrants to find a shelter in this Province. Too often of late years by the pernicious system of bonusing emigration agencies abroad, mental and physical degenerates have been landed on our shores and have finally drifted, either through mental, physical or moral deficiencies into one or other of our great public Charities. The majority of the feeble-minded girls who, having fallen an easy prey to some designing villain, are sent to our Rescue Homes, have only been a short while in this country. In such cases not only are they themselves a charge upon the Province but their offspring must be cared for and protected. If the Dominion Government would, by adopting more



stringent examination of the history of every emigrant, demand that "quality not quantity" was the password at every port of entry to Canada, a forward movement might be recognized that would surely lead to beneficial results a little further down the century.

However successful the effort to guard against the alliances of persons having their ancestry tainted by mental disease, children will continue to be born handicapped by this unfortunate predisposition. Even where such defect has not been known in the ancestry, it may arise from accident, or it may be fruit of individual elements, either of which in itself or in other combinations would be safe, but which plus the element with which it is united makes an uncertain and unsafe compound. Herein lies a great field for useful work in the prevention of mind disorders.

The family physician of the twentieth century will find a wide field for usefulness in the study of the variability of child-character and of the types and features of mind disease by early recognition of the susceptible or too sensitive brain, and by early detection of all indications of mental hyperesthesia.

When the physician has created an interest and shown the importance of thus early attending to and watching the mental development of childhood, he will stimulate teachers and parents to recognize the great importance of making a careful and intelligent study of characteristics, tendencies and weakness of each child. With such recognition carefully studied and faithfully applied there could only be one outcome—a healthier and hardier race of children with all the after-blessings in the later years of life. The examination passing test is not now regarded as the only standard by which to estimate a child's merits in the Canadian school system, and the sooner the teachers learn that there are other methods by which the mental growth of childhood is to be encouraged there will be a brighter prospect of healthier young Canadians. Those in charge of the education of child-character must exercise more discrimination in this work, making a careful study of the characteristics of each child, and giving to the parents such advice and such caution as the case would require. To secure this greatly-to-be-desired end, the physician must be the prime mover in the reform.

To lessen the demands on the brain means to regulate the burden to an organization which has already given evidence of weakness or susceptibility. The wonderful progress in every department of human affairs at the present day means an increased complexity in the human brain, which is consequently rendered more than ever susceptible to disturbance and disease. No doubt many attacks of insanity could be warded off and wholly prevented by proper regulation of the conduct and surroundings in the individual.

There is no doubt that fifty per cent. of the inmates of Canadian asylums are drawn from the farming community. This must be accounted for largely by the mode of living which obtains in many farm houses. Socially they are isolated from the world, especially in the newer districts. Imperfect hygienic surroundings, the monotony of their daily lives, a dietary that seldom varies, often the entire absence of bathing facilities, and we might draw a picture that reveals a state of domestic life that no wonder often ends in despair. The human brain demands diversity, and we must teach the farming community that they owe it as a duty to themselves as well as to the nation to cultivate a higher ideal of home life.

The class of literature which people read has a marked influence in moulding thought. Are there not many books published which we, as physicians, know are not conducive to soundness as well as purity of mind? If the literary tastes of the people may be judged by the class of trashy literature that is most popular, degeneration is surely manifesting itself. In the large majority of the most widely read books of the year there is a dangerous element, which is sure to create impure thought, and strongly tend to establish dangerous mental perversion. Our young people are now invited to feast at a literary repast that is decidedly dangerous. Some literature can only be described as damnable; so alluring and seductively attractive are the scenes, characters and incidents portrayed. We criticize not so much what is said as what is suggested. Many of the books that now find the largest sales, and are read by everyone, are polluted by a suggestiveness that can only prove injurious by inducing an abnormal individual attention which begets neurosis. People now seem to be losing an interest in the world's best literature. Their lives must be influenced by their reading, and the perusal of doubtful books is directly antagonistic to sound mentality. The family physician should feel it his duty to point out to parents and children how helpful are good books and how injurious are impure books. Not a few cases of mental diseases have already been traced to the influence of improper literature, and unless a more vigilant censorship is placed upon books, coming years will witness a marked increase in moral and sexual perverses. It is far from me to be an alarmist, but I feel this is a subject worthy of more strict attention.

None will deny that excess and dissipation, so frequently the excitants of mental disease in fertile soil, should be kept from those individuals who, by inheritance or by developed evidence of defect or unusual susceptibility, have shown the existence in their organizations of limitations below the normal. Parents should regulate with zealous care the surroundings of their children during



their development. The susceptibilities of youth must be fully recognized. Here the importance of careful study of child-character and the proper instruction of parents and teachers is again seen. Where so much depends upon the school life in estimating the value or the after life of the child, how important it becomes for more attention to be given to the variability of pupils in their functional capacity. The burdens must not be imposed on all alike. The child-nature must be studied and understood, and the burden and future training be regulated accordingly.

Perchance much that I have herein submitted may seem visionary and impracticable, but I am convinced that from the study and consideration of this important subject, much that will prove of lasting value may be accomplished along the lines I have thus imperfectly sketched.

From consideration of this subject I may be permitted to submit the following conclusions:

1. That if the conditions under which many cases of insanity originates were properly understood, many attacks of the disease might be avoided.
2. That the public should be enlightened in regard to the nature of insanity in order that they may properly estimate the influence of heredity as the most potent factor in the causation of the disease.
3. That care should be taken to provide a special refuge for feeble-minded women of the child-bearing age in order that a deplorable condition now most manifest in Ontario may be checked.
4. The prevention of insanity is not promoted by merely studying the phenomena of the disease.
5. That the study of child-character and the careful consideration of the variability in the development of mental phenomena during the period of growth in the child are all important.
6. The burden must be adjusted to the capacity of the individual in order that it can always be carried with safety when this is possible; and when it is not possible that the line of descent of every such defection shall terminate with the individual himself.

The subject of mental sanitation is one in which I feel earnest attention should be given.

Short addresses commending this paper were given by Rev. James Lediard of Owen Sound, Mr. J. D. Nasmith of Toronto, Mrs. Kirkpatrick of St. Thomas, Mrs. E. E. Sharpe of Lindsay, and the Chairman, the latter expressing the opinion that both papers should be printed and given a wide circulation.

## PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.

MR. J. J. KELSO then introduced the subject of Neglected and Dependent Children, and urged a greater development in the work of the Children's Aid Society, so that every town, village and country district would be fully covered. Experience continued to prove that a neglected child was the cause of pauperism, dependency and crime, and no effort should be spared to save every boy and girl from growing up to a wasted and useless life. Each Society should have an efficient agent or agents so that the work could be carried on in a thorough manner. While there were many Societies there were very few paid officials, the result being that many cases of neglected children were allowed to pass unnoticed. He thought there should be a greater harmony between the Children's Aid Societies and the Industrial Schools, and other Child Saving organizations, and that the aim of all should be to do that which was best for each individual child. In cities he thought there should be more Probation officers, as there were many young fellows being sent to gaol, who could, by a system of friendly supervision, be saved from developing into the criminal element.

At present the gaol seemed to be the only solution for crime, with the result that not only was the County building over-crowded, but there were nearly 400 inmates in the Central Prison, the great majority of whom were not yet 25 years old. Sending a boy to the gaol or even to the Industrial School should be a very last resort, as this action placed a certain stigma upon him, and compelled him to associate with others probably far worse than himself. No young child should be convicted of crime, but simply for delinquency, and parents should be held responsible for their children's wrong doing. He thought it would be advisable to have a law prohibiting children under 16 from attending theatres unless accompanied by their parents. Almost any night he said, crowds of young boys 12 to 14 years of age could be found in the low class theatres, where they learn much that is corrupting, and they were often tempted to steal in order to get money to attend these places. It could not be too often emphasized that the more attention given to the children, and the more good influences placed around them, would mean less misery, less crime, and less expense later on.

Mr. Cameron, Rev. Canon Dann, of London; James Mitchell, of Goderich; Dr. Radford, of Galt; Dr. R. V. Bray, of Chatham; Mr. C. Ferrier, Miss Elliott, of Toronto, and Rev. James Lediard, of Owen Sound, took part in the discussion that followed.

The Committee on Resolutions presented the following report, which was adopted by the Conference.

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TIME AND PLACE AND NOMINATIONS.

Your Committee beg to report as follows :

1st That the next annual meeting of the Canadian Conference of Charities and Correction be held in the City of Guelph or some other convenient city at a time to be fixed during the second or third week in May as the Executive may determine.

2nd. That the Officers and Executive be as follows :

President—Dr. R. W. Bruce Smith, Toronto.

Vice-Presidents—J. E. Farewell, Whitby; J. J. Kelso, Toronto; Rev. Jas. Lediard, Owen Sound; Hamilton Cassells, K.C., Toronto; Dr. Roseburgh, Toronto; Rev. Canon Dann, London.

Treasurer—Frank J. Walsh, Toronto.

Secretary—Lee Williams, Toronto.

Executive—Sheriff Cameron, London; S. M. Thomson, Brantford; R. G. McArthur, Sarnia; James Mitchell, Goderich; J. Stuart Coleman, Toronto; E. J. Hearn, K.C., Toronto; O. LaBelle, London; Col. Higginbotham, Guelph; T. J. Day, Guelph; Dr. Bray, Chatham; John Keane, Ottawa; Dr. W. L. Herriman, Lindsay.

Regarding the several subjects discussed before this Conference, your Committee beg to recommend.

1. That the efforts of the officers in charge of our County Jails and other penal institutions under control of the Province should be still further aided in the direction of a proper classification of offenders committed to their charge, and that the Government and City and County Councils be urged to still further enlarge the facilities for this purpose, as being an important factor in the lessening of crime by the prevention of contact between the hardened criminal and the novice who is only on the threshold of a criminal career.

2. That the scientific treatment of the criminally disposed would be aided by the recognition of the principle of indeterminate sentences, that principle being considered a fit corollary of the parole system already in successful operation in connection with the Dominion penitentiaries.

3. That Corporal punishment should be recognized as a fitting sentence in exceptional cases especially towards youthful offenders, and wife deserters, as being better fitted to bring home to such a realization of their wrong-doing than a term in jail.



that such punishment should be safeguarded by proper regulations for its infliction, and only ordered when in the opinion of the convicting magistrate it will exercise a more salutary influence than incarceration.

4. That this Conference confirms the conviction that the effective treatment of inebriety is along the line of restricting the liberty of the inebriate, and that the ultimate goal of effort should be the establishment of Inebriate Asylums, proportioned in number to the requirement of the country, that until the financial conditions permit of the establishment of such institution in the Province that a parole or indeterminate sentence system should be established, at least experimentally in two or three of the larger centres of the Province ; a municipal parole officer appointed, to which the inebriate should report periodically, and if advisable transfer his earnings ; that such probation officer should have the power to place the offender on the prohibited list at hotels, and have power to reincarcerate him if he breaks his parole—such a system, while not the ideal to which the Conference should aspire, is practical and capable of buttressing those addicted to alcoholism whose resolution is not sufficiently strong to otherwise withstand its temptations, and that practically the effect of such a method of parole under suspended sentence would be that the party under suspense would be an out door prisoner supporting himself and maintaining those dependent on him while technically in jail.

5. That this Conference endorse the resolution transmitted from the Children's Aid Society, of London, respecting the custodial care of feeble-minded women.

6. Recommend that, if possible, the papers by Dr. Helen McMurchy and Dr. Bruce Smith be published and distributed throughout the Province in order that a copy of each may, as nearly as practicable, reach every head of a family in the country.

7. That this Conference endorse all the efforts being made for the prevention of tuberculosis, and most heartily commend the work to the citizens of the Province.

Respectfully submitted,

D. M. CAMERON, Chairman.

Adopted November 15th, 1905.

J. E. FAREWELL, President.

Copy of resolution passed at meeting of the Board of Management of the London Children's Aid Society, held on 13th November, 1905 :

Moved by Mr. J. I. A. Hunt, seconded by Mr. V. Cronyn, That the Board join in the representations being made by the Council of



Women in Canada in favor of instituting some Governmental supervision over feeble-minded women, and desire to present the fact that their operations in aid of destitute and dependent children give the Children's Aid Society every reason for saying that the number of such falling to their care would be lessened appreciably by the adoption of means which would place such under restraint, the lack of which they deplore as being productive of misery, crime, and, in some cases, untold misfortune to classes outside of those specifically referred to in this resolution.

Many of the speakers held that there should be a Government and Municipal grant to the Children's Aid Societies, so that the salary of an agent could be provided for.

### EVENING SESSION.

The work of Charitable Organizations was taken up for consideration at the evening session, the first speaker being Rev. Dr. Perry, Pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church. The following is a brief report of his address:

#### SCIENTIFIC CHARITY, BY H. FRANCIS PERRY, D.D.

The marvellous growth of the modern city makes it at the same time a storm-centre and a light-centre. If democracy is to fail anywhere, it will be in the great city with its discontent, and pauperism, and intemperance, and over-crowding and social evil. Forth from the social cellar may come the assaïns of free institutions. The city is also the light-centre of our civilization. Here are the men of large enterprise and training and faith who are a large part of the regenerative force of the Kingdom of God on its human side.

Scientific charity, at first examination, seems a contradiction in terms. Science and charity are apparently mutually contradictory. Science is of the mind, charity is of the heart. Science deals with ultimate principles and its cold North-west wind blows aside many fallacies and vagaries. Charity is of the heart and deals with the assistance which is extended to those who are in need of help. It takes cognizance of the "other man." Science needs charity. Charity needs science. Scientific charity should be conducted by men especially trained for and in this kind of work. Poor relief and rich advice should be given by friendly visitors after the investigation made by a trained officer. Thus, in out-door relief, which affords the best chance for the individualizing process, there is a necessity

for the official investigation by a trained expert, and the friendly visiting which can be best done by voluntary visitors, who do the work through love for the unfortunate.

Five principles should obtain :

1. Thorough examination of each individual dependent. This is a fundamental and unvarying principle. An individual study should be made of each help.

2. Continued careful guardianship during the period of dependence. The personal influence and advice of those who are doing well in life will be of unspeakable benefit to those who are dissatisfied to remain in dependence. It is one of the most difficult parts of wise charity work to secure competent and persistent friendly visitors. For a family or an individual to have a confidential counsellor whose advice is practical and wise, is of inestimable value to the needy.

3. Constant effort to help the dependent regain and retain economic independence. This will be to seek and expect the re-establishment again of the dependent above the life line of self-support and uninvited poverty.

4. The co-ordination of all existing charities. There is a crying demand that charity should not overlap and make easy a swift descent into pauperism by those who find it easier to secure help from a number of organizations than to work. There ought to be a complete and scientific registration in a central agency, and the Associated Charity plan furnishes exactly such a place, of all individuals and families who apply for assistance.

5. Scientific charity should lead the way in the discussion of conditions which make for and against social amelioration. A campaign of education and agitation should be always in vogue. The philanthropic public should be taught in lectures and newspaper articles, discussions and sermons the real methods of scientific charity. The ceaseless agitation of such questions as undesirable immigration, the housing of the working-classes, and wife desertion, will bring large returns of civic blessedness. Let it be known that philanthropy and business can be united on a paying 4% basis.

MR. E. J. HEARN gave an excellent address on the world-wide work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the City Charity Organization Society, and

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH being invited to speak, said : There are, I think, two great cardinal principles of charity and relief. One is strict investigation which can be carried out only by experts or by persons constantly devoted to the task, otherwise doles can only produce mendicancy amongst those to whom they are distributed. The other principle is the adaptation of relief to need ;

and there again is the dole system conspicuous. There is no use in sending a dole to a widow who has been bereft of her breadwinner with a family of hungry children around her, and on the point of being turned out of her house. You must apportion your relief to the need. Also, it is necessary to inspire self-respect in the poor. We should avoid, as far as possible, making them exhibit themselves as mendicants. I doubt sometimes even the expediency of the public distribution of food or public dinners, because to my mind it tends to pauperize the people.

The Conference then adjourned after a hearty vote of thanks had been tendered to Chairman and speakers.

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